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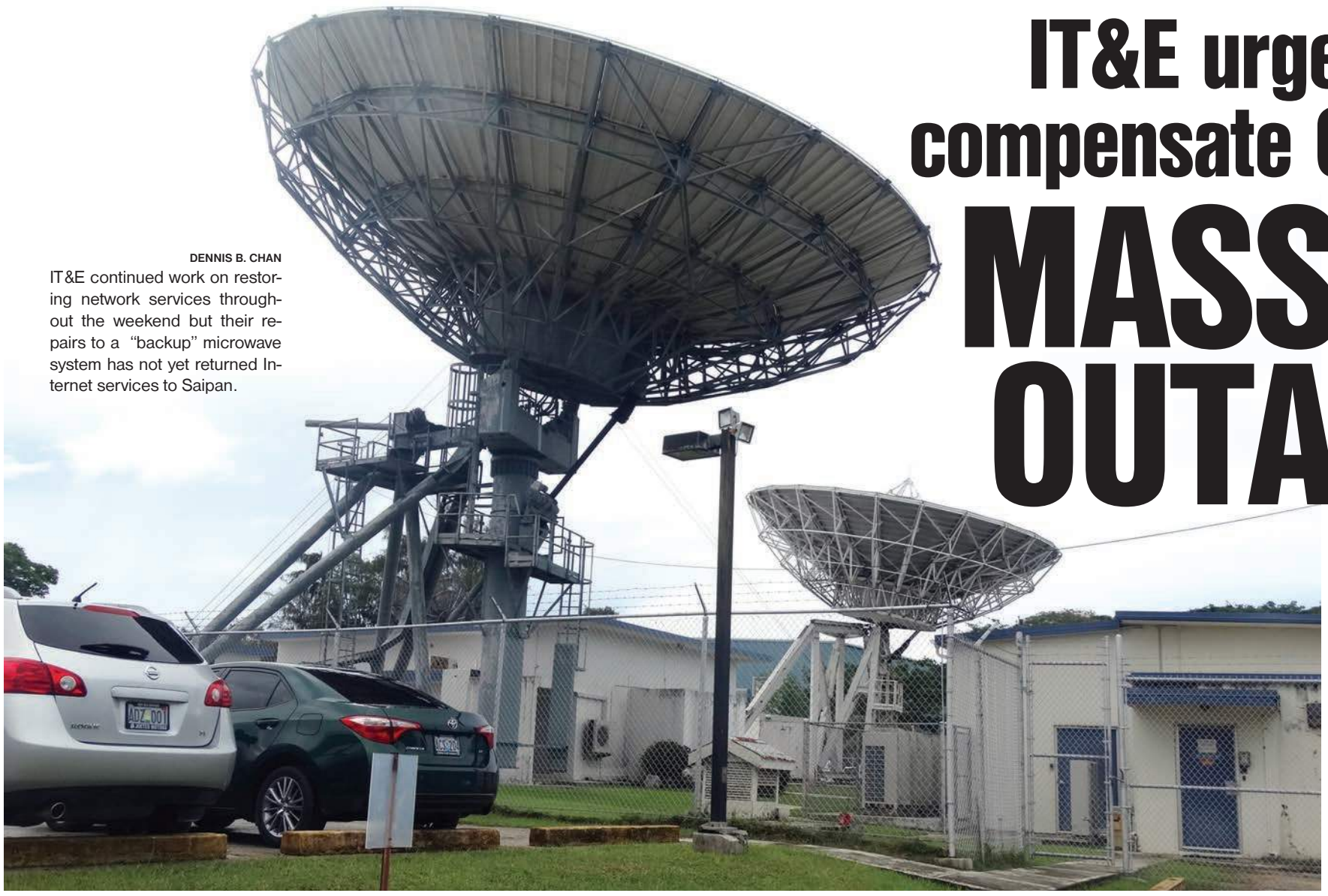
IT&E urged to compensate CNMI on MASSIVE OUTAGE



DENNIS B. CHAN
IT&E continued work on restoring network services throughout the weekend but their repairs to a "backup" microwave system has not yet returned Internet services to Saipan.

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

Telecommunications services provider IT&E is being urged to provide credit to the CNMI due to a massive communications outage in the Commonwealth last week.

As of yesterday, communications is still limited to voice services and SMS on Saipan.

While banks and other critical areas are now online, Internet access was still down, except on Rota and Tinian where mobile data services are available, according to IT&E.

In an emergency meeting convened by acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres last week, the possibility of the carrier giving back credit was brought up by Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson.

The call for the compensa-

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AMIDST SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

CUC board racks up $9K plus in over-expenditures

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has outspent by $17,704 its year-to-date budget of $24,925 nine months into the fiscal year, with most money going to "per diem" costs for board members, a breakdown of board expenses shows.

The CUC board has held eight meetings in less than two months. Their annual budget is $33,300. As of July 7, the CUC board has spent $42,679.31.

If the CUC board were to halt expenses today, they would still have exceeded by $9,379.31 their budget with three months left in the fiscal year.

See CUC on Page 4

Despite network limitations, bank operations improved Friday

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Improvement in banking operations on Saipan was seen starting last Friday.

Most banks were able to process withdrawal transactions and some automated teller machines were already functioning.

Aside from these, First Hawaiian Bank said they had Internet connection already set up Friday afternoon, which would echo IT&E's statement that they will prioritize businesses such as banks in fixing the network outage.

» Muna: Hospital still OK despite network blackout

Bank of Guam was also able to get back online Friday. Their ATMs were up and running and withdrawal transactions were processed.

Bank of Hawaii, however, still had a signage posted in their ATMs Friday noontime saying that due to network issues, their machines are out of service. Their post, on the other hand, which said that they cannot process withdrawal transactions was removed.

Long lines of clients were seen in some of the banks' branches late Friday afternoon.

Aside from last week being a payday week for government offices and some private companies, the need for cash after the typhoon and a day of banks being offline suddenly increased. Problems with credit and debit card processing may also have been attributed to the increase in over-the-counter transactions

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Every hotel has guests that stay faithful, visiting every year to the extent that some even call the Commonwealth their home away from home.
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Local

Nutting: Fitial fully apologetic to the public, remorseful

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Convicted former governor Benigno R. Fitial is fully apologetic to the public and is fully remorseful, according to his counsel, Stephen Nutting.

» 'Fine, fees, restitution absolutely to be paid'

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* on Friday pertaining to Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback and other critics' statements that Fitial did not apologize to the people for his crimes, Nutting said he believes the 69-year-old Fitial apologized to the people of the CNMI for his crimes.

"He apologized to the court, and everyone else," Nutting said.

Fitial was set to leave the CNMI either last Saturday or yesterday if the flights were available for the Philippines.

Nutting said Fitial's health has been on a "decline" because he has not been able to receive treatment in the Philippines for last few weeks so he is anxious to get back to Manila and return to his normal routine treatment.

Regarding court-ordered payments for $6,000 fine and $100 court assessment fees, Nutting said the former governor will absolutely pay the amount before the hearing.

On the restitution matter, the lawyer said they are anxious to see what the government comes up with and what will be the necessary amount to pay," he said.

Nutting

Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Fitial to one year in prison. The former governor was supposed to start serving the prison term last July 6, but Gov. Eloy S. Inos decided for the commutation of the jail term.

Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty last May 13 to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services, making him the first governor of the CNMI convicted of crimes.

Last July 6, Wiseman issued an order directing the government to file its claim for restitution against Fitial on or before Sept. 10, 2015.

In a post-sentencing order, Wiseman said any objection to the government's claim for restitution shall be filed within 10 days thereafter.

Pursuant to the sentence and commitment order issued June 26, 2015, Fitial was required to pay restitution in an amount to be determined at a later time.

The judge further ordered a status conference for Aug. 12, 2015 at 1:30pm to determine the status and/or plan for payment of the $6,000 fine and the $100 court assessment fee.

Wiseman said if the fine and assessment fee are paid prior to Aug. 12, the matter will be taken off calendar.

Active probationers decrease in 2014

The total active persons on probation in Superior Court slightly decreased in 2014 as compared to the previous year, according to the CNMI Adult Probation Office's statistics.

For the year 2014, there were a total of 2,954 active persons on probation, while there were a total of 3,147 in 2013 or a decrease of 6.1 percent. In 2012, there were a total of 3,051 active probationers.

The CNMI Adult Probation Office showed its statistics at a display for the 15th Annual Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week at the CNMI Judicial Complex in Susupe.

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro signed on Friday a proclamation declaring July 12 to 18, 2015 as Juvenile and Adult Probation and Parole Supervision Week.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo served as the guest speaker at the ceremony held in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Govendo said probation officers, parole officers, and the many others involved in community corrections play an indispensable role in implementing the rule of law.

Govendo said these officers must provide guidance in future conduct to those persons who have been convicted of crimes.

"They must promote the rehabilitation of offenders and monitor the restitution to victims along with other probation terms and conditions," he said.

Govendo said after a person has pled guilty or has been found guilty by a jury or a judge, the next step is sentencing.

He said most judges ask for a pre-sentence investigative report, which are prepared by the Office of Adult Probation.

Govendo said he usually get a very thorough background of the defendant, including prior acts, if any.

He said he gets a chance to see if the defendant is remorseful and whether he regrets his actions.

Govendo said he asks the probation officer to spend considerable time with the victim to see if the victim has any lingering effects from the crime.

"When all this comes together in the pre-sentence investigative report, I get a better picture of the defendant, victim and crime and it allows me to render a fair sentence," he said.

Govendo said it is not true like most people believe that the legal process ends in court when a judge pronounces a sentence.

Indeed, he pointed out, most of work starts after the judge has pronounced the sentence as many offenders do not go to jail but are put on probation.

Govendo said when a criminal defendant is on probation or parole, he is serving his sentence in the community without being behind bars, but under the restrictive standards and under the watchful eyes and supervising eyes the probation and parole officers.

Govendo cited that recently people saw the Board of Parole in action dealing with a clemency matter.

"I compliment the board for holding a public hearing and allowing members of the public to offer their opinions," said Govendo, referring to the pardon hearing for convicted former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Govendo also noted that when a drug court is finally started to deal with the crystal meth problem, it will be necessary to hire additional probation officers in order to make sure the drug court's orders are complied with.

The judge said he has confidence that these officers will continue to maintain and even improve their high standards. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Dentons EIS public meetings set for Saipan and Tinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Amid a telecommunications crisis, the administration says public informational meetings on the U.S. military's plans for live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan will continue.

"Despite the ongoing difficulties of communications, I am hopeful that the public will be able to attend these important meetings to learn more about the [CNMI Joint Military Training] draft environmental impact statement, and to learn how to best communicate these concerns to the Department of Defense," said acting governor Ralph Torres in a statement.

» Govt considers EIS extension request amidst Internet difficulties

The meetings are set for July 15 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, July 16 on Tinian at the Tinian Sr. Jr. High School, and July 17 on Saipan again at the Multi-Purpose Center. The meetings will be at 5:30pm.

Dentons, the firm hired by the government to review military impact documents detailing these live-fire plans, will lead these meetings.

The administration describes the meetings as "informational." The public meetings aim to show the public how to fill out comment forms for the military's impact statement. The public will also hear from government departments and agencies on "areas of concern" in the military's impact statement, and will hear what the government has been doing on the draft statement at this stage of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

The administration also says they are looking at the possibility of asking for another extension of the comment period for the EIS as the telecommunications crisis continues. They are looking at a request for an extension for the comment period so people can have access to the Internet and submit comments online, the administration said.

The comment period for the EIS has been extended two months from a deadline in June and ends early August. Under NEPA, there is no maximum amount of time set by the law to review the EIS.

In May, hundreds of CNMI residents gathered at the U.S. military's public hearings on Saipan and Tinian for these live-fire plans.

Tourism Topics
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Northern Marianas Dance Performance in Chengdu, China

To promote Northern Marianas' indigenous culture and highlight the islands' beautiful scenery to consumers, the **Marianas Visitors Authority** and **Tinian Dynasty** arranged a traditional dance performance in Chengdu, China recently.

The performance, featuring both Chamorro and Carolinian dances, was held at **Ito Yokado Shopping Mall** for over 8 hours each day. The dances and accompanying culinary demonstration drew the attention of many shoppers. An estimated 80,000 shoppers watched the performance during the China **Labor Day** holiday.
So far this fiscal year, China market represents the second highest number of visitor arrivals to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Saipan Tinian Rota
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ON INTERNET, WIRELESS PROBLEM'S EFFECT TO THE CNMI

Torres says govt has yet to conduct damage assessment to economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres said on Friday that they have yet to conduct an assessment about the estimated amount of damage to the CNMI economy brought about by Internet and wireless service disruptions.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Torres said as of Friday, they are focusing on Typhoon Nangka and the weather.

On stranded passengers at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, Torres said the Commonwealth Ports Authority informed him about the situation at the airport last Wednesday night so he called some hotels and asked them if they can accommodate the passengers.

Torres said he told the hotels that the government will take care of the payment arrangement on a later date because it is important that they accommodate the passengers, some of them are children that are sleeping on the floor.

Torres

Torres said he thanks CPA, the hotels, and Jeju Air for acting expeditiously.

"I told the hotel industry, the three hotels, if they need the payment either we make the payment and we be reimbursed by Jeju or we will just have the payments go straight to Jeju," he said.

Torres said their priority at that time was just to accommodate the affected passengers.

As of right now, there is no invoice to the government for hotel rooms, he said, adding that he does not know how many passengers were taken to the hotels.

The acting governor said at that time he learned about the problem at the airport it was 11pm and he didn't know how many tourists were affected and that the concern was the availability of hotel rooms.

Torres said as of Friday, the Internet was still down, however, by landline, people are able to call off-island.

"That's a good thing. We can communicate with families who are off-island. Let them know we're doing okay," he said.

Torres said IT&E continues to work hard on restoring the Internet.

"As of now, there is no update from them," he said.

It is unfortunate that the CNMI had "two hits in one time" said Torres referring to Typhoon Nangka and the Internet and wireless problem.

Torres said he is asking the community to continue their patience as they assist IT&E to restore the means of communication.

Torres asked the community to restore their safety procedures both at home and for personal belongings.

"We will continue to update the community as we move forward," he said.

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

CUC: Small but no major outages from storm

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. noted several outages on Saipan during Typhoon Nangka but power was quickly brought back up during the storm that saw little damage to CUC operations.

» CPA says flights back up

Sought for the status of CUC after and during the storm on Friday, acting executive director John Riegel said Rota was pretty much "untouched."

He said Tinian got some action but everything was operational. "Nothing down in the power or the water," he said.

Riegel said there were several outages on Saipan yesterday evening and into the night but these were quickly addressed.

He said power Friday was fully restored.

Villages that lost power included Kagman and Chalan Kiya, he said.

According to Riegel, crews were working through 10:30pm Thursday night. By that time, all power had been restored for quite some time.

"They continued with trimming trees today but right now at this moment I think things are just running normal," he said, adding that there were no extra crews out.

CUC was functioning and open all day Friday.

Riegel said there were still accepting payments and payments were being done through the "old-fashioned" way, through hard checks, not electronics.

"We are having some problems doing things electronically but we are still making payments and accepting payments," he said. He did not know if anybody has missed there're payments due to the network outage, when asked.

Airports back online

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama said United Airlines flew two "rescue' flights on Friday.

Cape Air/United had cancelled flights last week due to the ongoing network communications difficulties.

Other airlines reduced flights or cancelled theirs due to the network outage and Typhoon Nangka's poor weather conditions.

Lizama said as of Saturday Cape Air/United was back to normal operations.

Normal operations were back for other airlines as well, she said.

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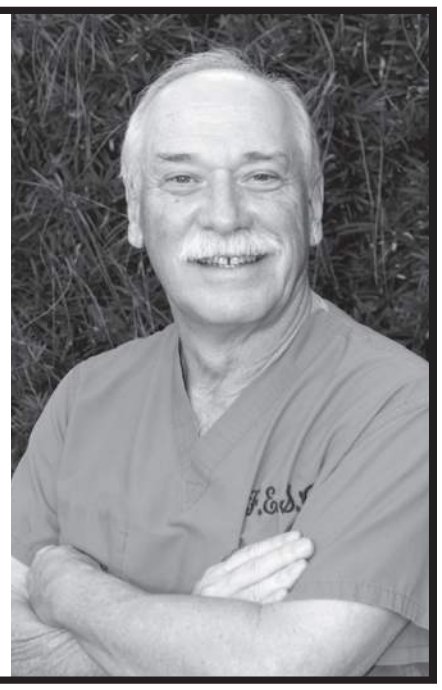

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Torres to hold assessment meeting with Cabinet members

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres will hold a meeting today with Cabinet members to assess and update the government on regarding recent communications breakdown that continues to affect Saipan.

As of yesterday, the island has yet to have Internet access, although mobile services and critical businesses such banks, are now back online.

The massive communications outage occurred last week when services provider IT&E reported severe damage to its undersea fiber optic cable servicing the CNMI due to bad weather.

The damage cable lies between Saipan and Tinian and as of yesterday, repair works on the cable and a backup microwave dish continues.

Acting press secretary Matt Deleon Guerrero said it is back to normal for government offices today, starting with a Cabinet meeting.

He said the acting governor will give an update on the communications breakdown after the meeting.

Deleon Guerrero also said Torres appreciates the patience and understanding of government employees who had to endure long queues in the bank for their salaries.

The communications breakdown affected online backing transactions and automated teller machines, prompting the public to troop to their banks to manually transact.

As of yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said there is still no word yet from IT&E as to when the backup system will be fully repaired.

IT&E last week said the undersea cable will take three months to repair while the backup system will be repaired in a only matter of days. The microwave backup system will provide mobile services but Internet access speeds will not be as fast as before. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

BANK

From Page 1

of the banks.

One client who wanted to encash his check at the Bank of Hawaii branch in Puerto Rico had to resort to using it as payment to a supermarket to avoid the long line and waiting to have cash.

'CHC is OK'

The Commonwealth Health Center is still running its daily operations and will continue dispensing health services despite the network blackout Saipan is currently experiencing.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna said they are prepared and had processed the hospital staff's salary last Thursday and Friday since banks were down.

Muna said that operations at the hospital are still running and that there is no major damage. Doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff went to work last Thursday despite the storm and clinics were also open.

"We have access to communications. We can still contact off-island and fax outside. We also have our own server an intranet," Muna said.

She also said that they are still able to reach off-island with their partners that collaborate with CHCC.

However, Muna said that the "e-prescribing" doesn't work for patients that need prescription and it needs to be done manually.

"The doctors have done this before. Although communications is limited we have our own satellite phone. Another thing that doesn't work is our radiology reading," she said.

Since last week after communications went down in the CNMI, the hospital had no major issues. Doctors were called through their landlines and majority had worked last week so all were informed of the issue.

"We're still open since last week despite the conditions from the typhoon and communications being down. Our clinics and other departments are open as well. Our operations are still running accordingly," Muna said. ***(With reports from Jayson Camacho)***

CUC

From Page 1

CUC board treasurer Joe Torres, who was voted to this position on Wednesday, said these expenses were "justified." He stressed that it was in their bylaws to have committees established, adding that the reason for the personnel committee was to "address all employees disputes" who are "terminated or pending termination."

"I feel the committee has accomplished a lot," he said yesterday.

On Wednesday, the board went into executive session with their legal counsel to discuss counsel's concerns with use of "per diem."

Per diem is reported to be around $175 for every four hours for a board member.

Torres said yesterday that if the management was paying a per diem that was "not correct" then they should not continue to overpay. "If they know it's not right, then they should correct it. Don't let the mistake continue. If you are a paying a per diem that is not correct, then it is the responsibility of the comptroller to fix it," he said.

The board's expenses combine per diem, honorarium fees, car rental, and airline tickets.

Albert A. Taitano, who chairs the personnel committee, has racked up $5,250 in per diem, and $540 in honorarium fees. He was sworn into the board last April.

Fellow Rota board director Diego Songao has racked up $5,337 in per diem and $570 in honorarium fees. Songao has been with the board since the start of the fiscal year. He was not named as part of a committee.

Board director David Sablan Jr. brought the budget shortfall to the board's attention on Wednesday, saying they needed to move some money because they have exceeded their budget. "I think we need to exercise some prudence," he said.

Torres on Wednesday said since that came in to the board he was asking for a budget but was never provided one. Torres later told *Saipan Tribune* this budget was voted on when he was not yet with the board.

Sablan said they approved this budget last year.

"I think we got to slow down in some of these operational meetings," Sablan said, referring to CUC's committee meetings. "We have to be very prudent of how we schedule these meeting's because it's really in honorarium and per diem that costs exceeded reasonableness."

Sablan said honorariums and per diem are "controllable costs."

He asked the two committees to exercise caution and restraint.

"This board has to address this shortfall. Otherwise, we would be moving into an area of tremendous deficit with three months left," Sablan said.

The board also discussed board chair Adelina Roberto's business trip to San Francisco to authorize a settlement between CUC and a company.

Roberto, who is a board member from Saipan, is tagged $2,321 for airline ticket expenses, according to the board budget breakdown.

Torres said the trip was of great benefit to CUC, adding that this could be put on a management account.

Torres said Roberto's presence was the request of the CUC management.

"We are using the board budget when it's supposed to be management," he said.

However, CUC counsel James Sirok said his request was for the board to designate someone to have the authority to act on behalf of CUC.

The board on its own decided that that someone would be Roberto, Sirok said.

Roberto had volunteered herself.

Originally, it would have been the executive director, which would have made it a management cost, Sirok said.

The board had given the executive director the authority to bind the corporation to a settlement amount.

"It is a technical point but what I am saying to you in response is, the board on it's own decided that person would be a board member and not a management member," Sirok said.

Sablan further said he was not arguing on what the committee's work was, but that they had exceeded their budget and must exercise prudence.

"We have been holding a lot of personnel and operations meetings, which is causing the expense to go up. Because that equates to per diem and honorarium for our two travelers who have to come in for those meetings."

Torres said most of these problems are personnel, and they have been addressing a lot of problems with this body.

"I think we have resolved quite a bit of them. We had one were we spent three days on that one case. We are still not done yet," Torres said.

Songao said he thought there was a law that prohibits honorariums and per diem for standing committee meetings.

Sirok said they could discuss this point in executive session. But added that on this point, the Open Government Act indicates that standing committees and subcommittees are not entitled to honorariums.

He said there were some concerns he would like to bring to the board in executive session dealing with how the per diem is spread out.

At the end of discussion, the CUC board voted to task management to come up with a recommendation to a board to cover its current shortfall plus another three months of additional funding to take them through the end of the year covering potential per diems, honorarium, car rental, airline tickets, and per diem.

For next fiscal year, the board has approved a budget of $50,000 for their expenses.

The expenses of board directors as of July 7 are as follows:

Expenses for per diem, honorarium, car rental, and air line tickets for Adeline Roberto are $1,220, $1,170

Roberto is tagged $1,220 in per diem, $1,170 in honorarium, and $2,321 in air ticket costs for a total of $4,711.

Taitano is tagged with $5,250 in per diem, $540 honorarium, $805 in airline ticket costs for a total of $6,596.50. He was sworn in on April 6.

Christopher Concepcion is tagged with $780 in honorarium.

David Sablan Jr., who lives in Guam, is tagged with $3,325 in per diem, $660 in honorarium, $556 in car rental, and $2,869.41 in airline costs for a total of $7,411.06

Eric San Nicolas, who is from Tinian, is tagged with $7,831.25 in per diem, $1,050, $893 in car rental, $1,311 for airline costs for a total of $11,085.25.

Diego M. Songao, who is from Rota, is tagged with $5,337.50 in per diem, $570 in honorarium, $917 in car rental, $2,564.50 in airline ticket costs for a total of $9,389.

Joseph Torres is tagged with $1,080 in honorarium fees. He told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday his $60 or $30 in fees was a minor figure compared to the time he could spend on his personal business. He said he serves for the interests of the Commonwealth.

OUTAGE

From Page 1

tion due to the outage has since gained support.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he is supporting the call, adding that credit should not just be given to government, but also to private business and members of the community

"It (credit) should be across the board," the lawmaker said.

He also questioned IT&E's maintenance and contingency plans, which he said, were "not done properly."

"IT&E as the owner of the fiber optic cable, should have mapping of the surrounding areas. Why lay it there when there are so many rocks? Is that the only area available?" he said.

For the acting governor, the possibility of giving back credit due to outage is a topic that can be discussed in another meeting.

"These are things that we can sit down and look at what needs to be done and what accommodation we can do on both sides," Torres said.

He said he acknowledges the effort of IT&E, particularly on the update the company provided as soon as the damage to its undersea cable was detected.

"I'm sure they don't want this to happen, and they want to expedite the repairs," he said.

Alternative

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman said it is probably time for the CNMI to look for alternatives.

He said there has been interests from other companies, including Japan's DoCoMo and Guam's GTA to lay down their own cables in the CNMI.

"The regulatory body will determine if this is possible, but another submarine cable installation will be good for the Commonwealth," Seman said.

He added that aside from telecommunications, the leasing of land for the submarine cable will also be good for the government because the interested parties would lease the land from the DLNR.

Seman said the investments of interested carriers will depend on a number of factors. He said the length of the submarine cable, the capacity, the location, and the size of the area are all factors in the appraisals of the land.

"But I definitely would welcome it," he said.

Work continues for fiber optic cable backup

IT&E, meanwhile, continued network restoration efforts over the weekend, but Internet access was not yet restored for Saipan as of press time yesterday.

IT&E has been working on restoring their microwave redundancy system, described by IT&E officials as the backup for the downed fiber optic cable between Saipan and Tinian.

The fiber optic cable between Saipan and Tinian was damaged last Wednesday, causing the current network communications crisis.

According to their latest press release, IT&E sent additional crews and materials to Tinian to increase capacity on the island.

Microwave restoration in Rota was ongoing, IT&E said last week.

As of press time, there was no Internet access for Saipan yet.

By Friday, IT&E had one DS3 microwave connection established.

The DS3 microwave connection provided limited communications to first responders and government agencies, IT&E said.

IT&E continued work on providing additional capacity to Tinian and Rota via microwave link but were hampered due to weather conditions Thursday.

IT&E said Thursday they began their effort to provide temporary fiber connection on Tinian as an alternative for additional capacity.

On Friday, Tinian and Rota had access to Internet while no access to Internet was available yet for Saipan.

On Friday, IT&E's head of engineering Velma Palacios said they would continue work over the weekend.

As of press time, Saipan had long distance calls on landline, landline interisland calls, CDMA and GSM services for voice and SMS, SMS service within the IT&E network, and free local calls for prepaid subscribers.

On Rota and Tinian, similar services were up plus access to the Internet.

More family time on Saipan

With the Internet down and the weather finally clearing up, friends and families around the island have taken advantage by engaging in some leisure activities like picnics and barbecues in *pala-palas* and beaches that litter Saipan's coastline.

One community member Delbert Pua told *Saipan Tribune* that the network blackout on Saipan is actually a good thing for the family.

"This is the best time for families because when we had Internet services everyone else spends their time online. Now that we don't have Internet, I was shocked to hear from parents that there are a lot of family time…Something that they couldn't enjoy when they had Internet," Pua said.

Pua also said that if there was one good side to having no Internet is that everyone is returning to family values.

Amalia Magofna, 21 and one of the young generation of the CNMI, also said that the past few days were good times. Despite the younger generation having a small issue in coping with no Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, or Netflix, family time also matters to them, she said.

"It is good and I enjoy the family time that we're having. It's been awhile since it has been like this and it is a great time for family to bond more," Magofna said.

Other members of the community on the beach areas have also said that although they don't have Internet access, the family gatherings are a plus. ***(With reports from Dennis B. Chan and Jayson Camacho)***

EVEN WITH INTERNET, WIRELESS SERVICE PROBLEM

It's business as usual at federal court

Even if the CNMI has been experiencing Internet and wireless service problems, it's still business as usual at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Clerk of Court/Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Friday announced that the federal court will remain open to the public during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm, throughout the current disruption in Internet and wireless service.

Kennedy said hearings will take place as scheduled, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Kennedy

For people who need to make payment, the clerk's office will accept cash and check, and give a paper receipt.

Kennedy said people who are representing themselves in a case (pro se proceeding), they may file papers by hand at the clerk's office during regular business hours.

The magistrate judge added that they must bring the original and two copies for the court, plus enough additional copies to serve on all the other parties.

Kennedy said the court will be issuing a separate general order for attorneys regarding filing and service procedures during the disruption.

"If you have any questions, please call the clerk's office at 237-1200 and our staff will be happy to assist you," Kennedy said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SHEFA eyes relocation to new office in August

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance plans to move to the Ladera Center by August to be in close proximity with the Saipan Mayor's Office

SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa said that with the move they will need to start paying rent for the unit/office improvements and funding will be needed.

"We have a contract already in preparation and try and get the space ready. It is an extension in the existing contract with the Saipan Mayor's Office," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said.

Apatang said that he would help them in speaking with the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation to get funding as well.

SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta said that they did ask for more funding and discussed in their latest board meeting not only the rental fee but also their own transportation services to better serve students.

Every year, SHEFA is usually appropriated some $3 million and allots $100,000 for its operations that include personnel.

The current office SHEFA uses has been its home since 2004 and is rent-free with only an annual insurance fee of $300 to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Apatang said SHEFA moving to Ladera Center is a good decision because it would foster better collaboration between SHEFA and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

SHEFA board approved to move the SHEFA office to the second floor of the Ladera Center where the Saipan Mayor's Office is located. In that way, SHEFA can avail itself the logistics and other services provided by Apatang's office.

Apatang himself suggested SHEFA to move to the Ladera Center back in January of this year and urged the board to start planning its move before NMHC releases the property to possible investors.

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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.

A 25-year love affair with Mariana Resort

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JAYSON CAMACHO

Japanese couple Hiroshi Homma, 85, and his wife Takako, 77, pose at the frontage of the Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi.

Every hotel has guests that stay faithful, visiting every year to the extent that some even call the Commonwealth their home away from home.

This is the case for Japanese couple Hiroshi Homma, 85, and his wife Takako, 77. The couple has been regular guests at Marianas Resort and Spa since the 1990s.

Hiroshi and Takako first visited Saipan 25 years ago and during those more than two decades they've visited Saipan a grand total of 55 times—twice and sometimes even thrice a year. They've returned to their second home despite increasing expenses and major changes since Japan Air Lines pulled out from the islands more than a decade ago.

As frequent guests of Marianas Resort since 1990, the Hommas heard about what might possibly happen to their second home and couldn't help but give their 2 cents worth on the issue.

"Marianas Resort & Spa is our second home and we want to continue coming back. We know the history of Mariana Resort before it became a big hotel, back then it was small. We have many memories here including with the rest of our family. We hope that Mariana Resort's management continues and that they keep the hotel," Hiroshi said.

Kan Pacific Saipan's land lease on the Marpi land expires on April 2018. Mariana Resort was hoping to get an extension of its lease, but the Department of Public Lands made a recent decision to solicit competitive bids instead of granting a new lease agreement to Kan Pacific. This has resulted in Mariana Resort holding off on investments worth millions of dollars.

Hiroshi said that once Kan Pacific leaves, he and his wife will not be continuing their annual visits to Saipan.

"Twenty-five years ago we first came to Mariana Resort to play golf, but we were not staying here and stayed at a different hotel. However, we did not like the other hotel, and after coming to Mariana Resort we enjoyed it because of the golf, the horseback riding, and the staff and services," Hiroshi said.

"They were very nice to us. So we stayed at Mariana Resort and continued to stay here on every visit. We continued traveling to Saipan twice a year. Our grandson on his first visit here, he was only six months old, he is now 19 years old and loves Saipan especially Mariana Resort," he added.

The Hommas' other grandson came here about 15 times and brought his friend along to stay at the Mariana Resort.

"The one we love the most is the staff and the warm welcome we always receive when we come back. We also like the different cultures that interact at the hotel where everyone is smiling and not only the Japanese employees. We like the golf course, the view, and the hotel," Hiroshi said.

"We call it our second home because we are retired and usually in Japan we look for places to stay when we visit and return again…Back then it was a lot cheaper to fly to Saipan when Japan Air Lines was flying from Nagoya to Saipan but now nothing, but we still come because we love the service, the island, and our second home [Marianas Resort]," Hiroshi said.

Takako also said that her family members visited Saipan as well.

Hiroshi said that they are usually here for two weeks but seldom leave the hotel because it accommodates all their needs.

Hiroshi said he and his wife, who live in Fuchu, Tokyo, usually spend between $7,000 and $10,000 whenever they visit Saipan. The expenses, however, increase whenever they bring other family members.

"We love it here and hate to see it go. If somebody else takes over we won't be coming back because Mr. [Yoshihiro] Kitami [president of Kan Pacific] is very nice to us including his employees and we enjoy it here. We hope they (the CNMI government) reconsider and let Mariana Resort stay," Hiroshi said.

Marianas Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh said that repeater guests are always important to the hotels.

"Mr. and Mrs. Homma have been coming here for over 20 years. Marianas Resort has been here through thick and thin and they are guests that have been returning back and we would like to see them stay in the future," Cavanagh said.

Banquet held to recognize island farmers and ranchers

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair Association held a banquet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Saturday.

The celebration was held to recognize island farmers and ranchers, especially those who participated in last June's Agricultural Fair.

"We need to recognize them for their hard work and we need to express our appreciation for what they produce for the island because we're an island community that is dependent on imports. We never know what's going to happen like what happened with the DSL. If something happened, they are there to give us food," Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman said.

"The department needs to be always mindful that they're the reason why we exist. We will do whatever we can within our means to support them and provide what they need for them to continue what they are doing," he added.

"The overall outcome has been positive and great. We got the support of the public and private sector," Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair Association president Michael Ogo said.

Farmers and ranchers gathered and had fun at the dinner event. Winners from the June Fair were also recognized and given their prizes.

For the 4-H Club youth division which was for young farmers ages eight to 18 years old, Chelsea Lorenzo, Froilan Camacho, and Jeremiah Camacho won the first, second, and third places, as they pocketed $364, $284, and $278 in cash prizes for their plant entries.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Felipe Roberto was recognized by the Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair Association for his contributions in island farming as well as being the oldest and longest-tenured farmer on island. Kid farmers who won in the 4H youth division of the recent Agricultural Fair also pose for a picture with him.

In the adult plant division, Ed Deleon Guerrero won first place as he received the biggest prize of $1,385 for his entries. Gregorio Calvo and Santiago Tudela won second and third place, respectively, reaping $715 and $655 in cash prizes.

For the animal division, Gregorio Camacho who gathered a cash prize of $1,275 placed first. Anthony Aguon and Jack Guerrero were on second and third place after winning $505 and $400 cash prizes.

Oldest farmer

Aside from the winners of the Agricultural Fair, one farmer in the island was also given special recognition.

"This is the first time where we're actually choosing somebody that has been in agriculture for so many years and we're recognizing those people for the impact that they brought to agriculture," Ogo said.

The association awarded Felipe Roberto who they found as the oldest and longest-tenured farmer in the island.

Roberto said he has been a farmer since he was 11 years old and now that he is 81, he hasn't stopped.

"I am so proud," Roberto said tearfully, "Farming is not so easy, but it is not so hard."

Roberto added that farming should be given importance in the island.

"The young generation now they don't want to be farmers. They want to be in the offices," he said.

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Mileage: 12,413
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Mileage: 108,628
$6,800

2005 NISSAN MURANO S
A/T V6 3.5L AWD
Mileage: 46438
$11,800

2007 KIA RIO
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Mileage: 134,338
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is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Front Office Manager (1)
Qualifications: Preferably a college graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hospitality or Tourism Management; a minimum of two years work experience as Front Office Supervisor in a hotel of significant volume. Ability to read, analyze and interpret journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to write letters, memorandums or conceptualizing hotel's objectives. Ability to effectively present information to top management and employees, in groups or individually. Ability to speak, write and read in the English language fluently. Fluency in Japanese is an advantage. Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumstances, and volume, and analyze such information. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Comprehensive knowledge of business management, financial reporting and productivity requirements; Proficient in Microsoft Office program and Fidelio System software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Electrician (3)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Landscaping Worker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 to 3 years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Baker (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Demi Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Assistant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Preferably some technical courses. Must know how to use Excel and Microsoft Word. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram and understand centralized air-conditioning system. Adheres to OSHA safety standards that are applicable for the safe performance of job. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Tailor/Dressmaker (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (4)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Night Auditor (2)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (6)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (Banquet) (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 5 years experience required in banquet and/or related field. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Guest Services Agent (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Reservations Agent (1)
Qualifications: Preferably high school graduate. Must have minimum two (2) years of experience, in Sales and Marketing or Tourism, and or equivalent years of relevant experience in hotel industry. Know how to operate office equipments like fax/copier machine, telephone, computer (knowledge in Fidelio system is an advantage). Able to handle, arrange the agents or guests needs and complaints efficiently. Must have excellent communications, good quality customer service, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than July 14, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 12, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Godfather's holds fundraising for fire department

Godfather's Bar on Saturday held a fundraising for the CNMI's Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

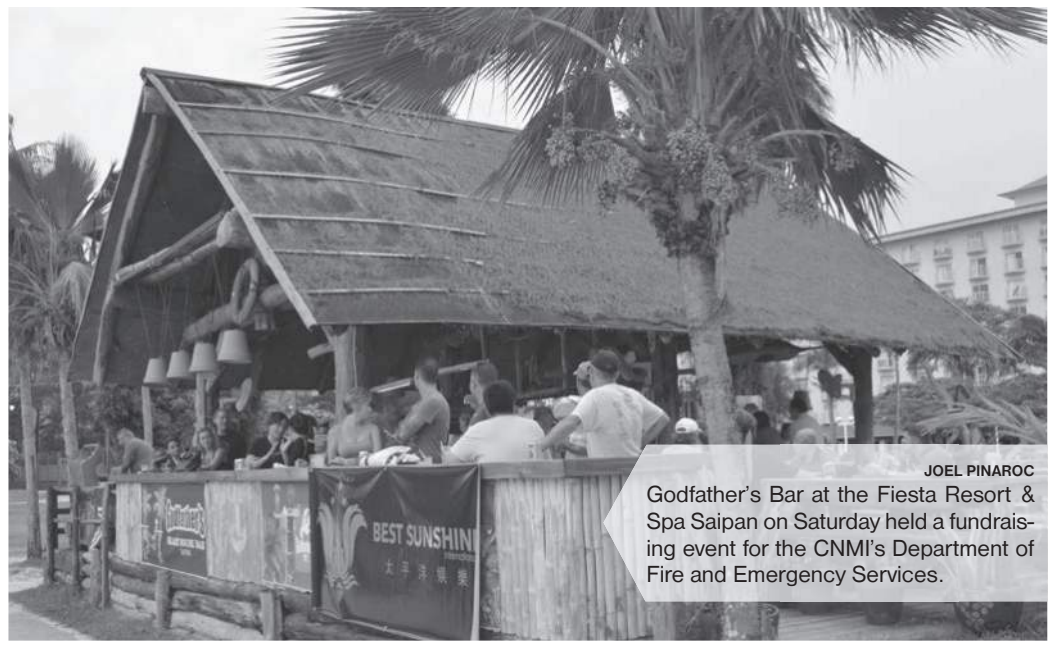
Scott Dottino, proprietor of Godfather's Bar, said the event, held at Godfather's beachfront branch at the Fiesta Hotel & Spa Saipan, was meant to give funds to the department "because a lot people depend on them and they don't have enough funds."

Dottino said Godfather's initiated the fundraising by approaching the department. He said the bar and restaurant has done other fundraising projects for other groups.

"We've done it for the Autism Society, the police department, etc. Every couple of months, we hold this fund raising for organizations that may need funds," he said. "We go out to them, and offer them to raise the funds."

During Saturday's fundraising, Dottino said Godfather's offered to give a portion of their sales to the fire department.

He said other sponsors, such as Best Sunshine International, Ltd., have also been invited to donate prizes and sponsor the food. "We offer drinks specials, we have a donation box, and we will give a portion of our sales to the department," he said. "This is open to the public."



JOEL PINAROC
Godfather's Bar at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Saturday held a fundraising event for the CNMI's Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Fire department chief Clyde Norita said he welcomes the fundraising.

"Godfather's approached us asking if they can do something for the department," Norita said, adding that the funds will go to an employees' association within the fire department.

The association donates to a firefighter who maybe in need of monetary assistance, Norita said. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attorney general warns against price gouging

Following the heels of Tropical Storm Nangka and Tropical Storm Chan-Hom, consumers should be aware that unscrupulous retailers and businesses may try to profit illegally from the storms.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan sternly warns retailers that the Consumer Protection Act makes it unlawful for any business to engage in price gouging. The Attorney General explains, "price gouging occurs when a business increases prices based on the shortage of goods caused by a natural disaster or any other emergency." He added, "the Office of the Attorney General will prosecute, both criminally and civilly, any business that engages in price gouging."

Contact Carla Torres, PIO of the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500, or email Assistant Attorney General James Zarones at jzarones@dps.gov.mp for more information on price gouging. ***(PR)***

2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

The guest speaker will be Ronald Sablan, Medical Referral director, Office of the Governor and the topic is "Medical Referral Program Update."

To RSVP or for more information, please call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

BSI artist registration open until July 12

Summer is here and in the spirit of the 70th Liberation Festivities, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is welcoming CNMI citizens of all ages to submit artistic interpretations of the future of Saipan for the Discover the Future of Saipan Art Competition. As the focus of the artwork is the future, young artists' submissions are welcome and encouraged. Registration will be open until July 12. Artwork must depict the future of Saipan and must contain local elements of native hospitality and/or elements of the CNMI tourism industry.

The top 3 entries that receive the most votes by the end of business on July 17, 2015 (5pm) will be considered the winning entries and will receive cash prizes for back to school expenses or art supplies. The top 10 to 20 entries will also have the opportunity to be featured in a high visibility campaign. All entries and registration forms with must be emailed to bsiartcompetition@gmail.com. You can also pick up artist registration forms at the Mariana Business Plaza, Room 204. ***(PR)***

'Goal Setting and Time Management Seminar' on July 21

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its "Goal Setting and Time Management Seminar" on July 21, 9am-12pm, at Suite 315 of the Marianas Business Plaza.

"Whether you are a manager or a front line staff person, you probably could use a little more efficiency in your day. Get some great tips at our next business seminar on July 21st, Tuesday," the Chamber said in a statement,

Jomari Pico from T Galleria will speak about goal setting, while Jim Arenovski from Island Training Solutions will offer tips and tricks for time management.

Both topics will give you ways to get more done in a shorter amount of time, and to work towards your goals in the process. The seminar begins at 9am and ends at noon. Light refreshments are included.

Registrations are being accepted by calling April Sablan at 234-7150. Fee for Chamber member companies is $25 ($35 for non-members). Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Seating is limited to first 40 confirmed attendees. ***(PR)***

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Perhaps unmindful about the change of Typhoon Nangka's direction, some people are seen still preparing the booths with canopies at the Liberation Day Festivities' venue as of 3pm Wednesday at the Garapan Fishing Base. After an hour, workers started removing the canopies.

Cosmos Distributing Co., Ltd. Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Sales Representatives (2)
Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product marketing and providing excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of reports and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Sales Representative – Hospitality Industry and Lubricants
A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Preferably with Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory and supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants is a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service are required. Must be proficient in MS Excel and Word for preparation of report and Outlook for email. Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales targets. Applicant needs to be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of 4-year Business or Accounting course and at least 5 years of progressive management experience in wholesaling and product distribution. Minimum of 5 years general management experience in warehouse, sales, purchasing and distribution activities. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, MAS90/Sage Accounting Software and Microsoft software. Must have a solid track record in meeting business objective.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than July 25, 2015.

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15th, 2015 at 9:00am at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan.

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes – April 30, 2015
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Personnel
   3. Ad Hoc Committee
4. **Old Business**
   1. Tourist Exit Survey – renewal
   2. Email Ratification
      a. WGI for FY 2015
      b. Budget Matters and Osaka Air Service
   3. Email Poll: Destination Enhancement
   4. Email Poll: Contract Renewal – NMICF
   5. Korea Ad Hoc Recommendations
5. **New Business**
6. **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7. **Executive Session**
8. **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

NMHC hereby provides notice to the public that available funding for the **Homeownership Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program** has reached the point of exhaustion and therefore the agency is calling for a moratorium on the acceptance and processing of new applicants for the program until funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) becomes available.

Pursuant to NMHC's HOME Program Policies and Procedures, and because of the limited funding allocated to the CNMI each program year, NMHC has recognized the need to prioritize the level of assistance to qualified families. And because there are currently more applicants than available funds, NMHC shall establish and maintain an applicant waiting list where applicants shall be assisted if and when additional funds become available.

All applicants that have been approved and are being assisted, as well as those placed on the waiting list shall be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Pardon, commute, reprieve

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

An older Carolinian who calls Ben Fitial "my brother" also says, "Brother Ben forgot he was Carolinian." A recognized leader among Carolinians, former governor Fitial pled guilty to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services. He was sentenced to a year of incarceration by the Superior Court of the CNMI on June 25, with service to commence on or before July 6.

The three options mentioned by governor Inos stated in our title gives the impression that it is the only ones he can constitutionally do, something akin to the military's characterization of the EIS as providing only three alternatives. As has already been pointed out, doing nothing, not converting Pagan and Tinian into live-fire training grounds is an option. The governor is equally in a position not to do anything in response to Fitial's application letter for pardon.

The Board of Parole, convened on the request of the governor, recommended a commutation of sentence but not pardon. In common sense meanings, pardon is a forgiveness of an offense, as if it did not occur, or has no significant consequence, or that the perpetrator is no longer subject to accountability. Commute is to reduce a sentence to make it less severe. Reprieve cancels or postpones a sentenced punishment.

We write under a parent company that regarded Ben Fitial as a member of the family, thereby, hardly seen to be free from the natural disposition to protect. We recognize, nonetheless, the larger mandate to serve the interest of the general public, and to the latter, we draw ourselves within the line.

Commute clearly recognizes that an offense was made. Spiriting a masseuse in the shadows of night from a correctional facility to knead Fitial's aching back is hardly kosher, let alone, politically appropriate. The deliberate blocking of a service to deliver an order of the court is a crime more than just the political arrogance of power it was. Not a few in our editorial staff remember the Marcoses' misuse of executive powers, and, perhaps, Fitial thought he could get away with the practice as well.

Knowing of Ben Fitial's physiology, no one denies him the medical attention he requires in a critical time of his prime. A commute reduces the severity of his sentence, in this case, get Fitial off the hook out of confinement save as his medical condition needs, and still carry the weight of a sentence that affirms "no one is to be considered above the law."

Governor Inos' commutation, heading the advice of the Board of Parole, keeps all views in place; letting Fitial off incarceration time without invoking the word "forgiveness," which recently found media's use when expressed by victims' families of Dylann Roof's Charleston massacre relieves all the residue of guilt. As the saying goes, "it is easy to forgive, less to forget." Fitial, of course, does not compare to Charleston.

The affair is beyond forgetting. The legal wrangling ceases but the quashing of sour grapes won't. We go with the wisdom after the typhoon: it is done. Assess the damage, rebuild, and move on.

Economy, government depend on building up middle class

By DAVID MADLAND
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

America's middle-class origins were central to our success as a nation, but our future greatness is in grave jeopardy because the middle class is now so weak.

When the United States declared its independence from the British, it was the most middle-class society in the world. America's carpenters, shopkeepers and farmers enjoyed a higher standard of living than workers in other parts of the world and economic inequality was lower than any place else, according to research by Jeffrey Williamson and Peter Lindert, economists at Harvard and the University of California-Davis.

Thomas Jefferson recognized that our economic origins were special when he wrote that "we have no paupers. ... The great mass of our population ... possess property [and] cultivate their own lands. ... The wealthy, on the other hand, and those at their ease, know nothing of what the Europeans call luxury."

The United States wasn't the richest country in the world—or even the richest New World colony. Places like Cuba and Haiti were richer, but the wealth America had was relatively evenly distributed, and this made all the difference in our development.

In part because of this economic equality, ordinary citizens in the United States had significant political influence, which led to investments in infrastructure and public education that helped fuel our future growth. In contrast, the former colonies in other parts of South and Central America were highly unequal, which meant that the wealthy controlled their governments and used their control to maintain power rather than invest in the development of the entire country.

As Kenneth Sokoloff, the late economic historian from the University of California-Los Angeles, and Stanley Engerman, an economist at the University of Rochester, explained: "Nearly all of the New World economies were sufficiently prosperous by the beginning of the 19th century to establish a widespread network of primary schools." But "few actually made investments on a scale sufficient to serve the general population." As a result, literacy rates in the United States and Canada reached 80 percent by the 1870s, almost four times the rate of not only Cuba, but also Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Jamaica—countries with much higher levels of economic inequality.

Unfortunately, over the past four decades, middle-class America has come undone as wages have stagnated for most workers and the rich have captured the vast majority of economic gains. As a result, we are starting to resemble less-developed countries more than we might wish to admit.

Like the former colonies in South and Central America, the United States is failing to make investments in public goods like education and infrastructure that drive future growth because in our increasingly unequal society the middle class lacks the political power to translate its preferences into policy.

Polls clearly show that most Americans would strongly prefer greater spending on education and infrastructure. But these public goods generally aren't as important for the wealthy as they are for the middle class. Though the wealthy often support spending on schools and roads, they have less interest in paying taxes to support them and often can afford private alternatives to these public goods. When push comes to shove and priorities are set — making choices about what to spend money on and at what level to set taxes — the priorities of the wealthy have held greater sway. And that has meant America has underinvested in infrastructure and education.

In the United States, less than 40 percent of expenditures on higher education now come from public spending, compared with almost twice that for other advanced countries. Because college is harder to afford, fewer are able to graduate. Similarly, total federal, state and local spending on infrastructure has fallen by about $60 billion per year compared with the mid-1970s. Because of this downward trend, the United States now spends far less on infrastructure than our competitors.

These failures of government have had clear consequences. As recently as 1995, the United States was still ranked first in the world in the percentage of the population with a college degree, but now ranks only 15th. Similarly, U.S. infrastructure has deteriorated from being top-notch to ranking behind Barbados, Oman and Bahrain, among many others, according to surveys from the World Economic Forum.

The weakening of the middle class is a concern not just for those who are suffering, but for all of us. A strong middle class is the source of our greatness and the driver of our economic growth. To get our economy and our government back on track, we need to return to our roots and rebuild the middle class.

David Madland is the author of "Hollowed Out: Why The Economy Doesn't Work Without a Strong Middle Class," *and managing director for economic policy at the Center for American Progress.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Rep. Honda

Thank you, Olomwaay and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for signing our petition and thereby adding your very important voice to the over 116,000 other voices who stand in solidarity with us in fighting to save our home islands of Pagan and Tinian from being irreparably and unjustifiably destroyed through live-fire bombing by the U.S. military and its allies.

I am from Pagan and have many friends and families living on Tinian. Your support means a great deal to us. You have our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

I, too, would like to encourage all our supporters to send messages of appreciation to Rep. Honda for his huge support. Here is a link to his facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/RepMikeHonda. Please visit it, thank him for his huge support and be sure to like his page.

Thank you all and God Bless.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Co-founder, PaganWatch
Alternative Zero Coalition

Focus

Prison break casts spotlight on staff-inmate relationships

NEW YORK (AP)—Training to work in maximum-security prisons includes stern warnings that add up to one message: Don't get too close to the inmates.

Never treat the relationship as anything other than professional. Never reveal personal details an inmate could use to compromise you. And never forget you are dealing with hardened, often cunning, criminals.

Investigators say prison tailor shop instructor Joyce Mitchell ignored those admonitions with frightening consequences, actually helping a pair of convicted killers make their power-tool breakout from upstate New York's Clinton Correctional Facility. She pleaded not guilty Friday night to charges of felony promoting prison contraband and misdemeanor criminal facilitation linked to the escape.

It doesn't have a catchy name like "Stockholm syndrome"—in which hostages become sympathetic to their captors—but the phenomenon of improper ties between inmates and prison staffers has been a touchy subject in corrections for years.

"It's embarrassing to the industry, it's embarrassing to management, but it occurs," said Michael Alexander, who spent over a decade working in different prisons and who has written about inmate and staff relationships.

Immersed in a world of inmates who can be excellent manipulators, some prison workers wind up doing inappropriate things for them out of compassion, greed, or romantic attraction, experts say. Other staffers are swayed by inmates' threats to harm their loved ones or expose the workers for breaking a rule.

"You spend more waking hours with them than your family, you get to know them, you see them age over the years," said Catarina Spinaris, executive director of Desert Waters Correctional Outreach, a training organization. "You have to be very cognizant of the need to maintain distance."

Inmates have all the time in the world to study prison workers for any vulnerability they can exploit, experts say.

Their "No. 1 objective is to make you forget they're an inmate," said Anthony Gangi, who has been working in corrections for over a decade and has a company that offers training in avoiding inmate manipulation. "You forget they're an inmate, you forget the role you have to play."

AP

Joyce Mitchell is arraigned in City Court on Friday, June 12, 2015, in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Terry Pelz, professor of criminal justice at the University of Houston and a former Texas prison warden, said newer employees tended to be more at risk than long-time employees, who "know the games inmates play."

At Baltimore's city jail, an inmate gang so corrupted and co-opted guards that its leader impregnated four of them, prosecutors said in a 2013 racketeering case against 44 people, including 27 corrections officers. Authorities said graffiti on a jail wall named 14 officers willing to have sex with inmates for $150 a tryst.

In another notorious case, convicted New York City cop killer Ronell Wilson impregnated a guard at a federal lockup. Their son—named Justus—was born a month after his mother's 2013 arrest for having the relationship.

The guard later pleaded guilty, with her lawyer saying she had "a misguided emotional belief that being impregnated by Ronell Wilson was providing him with a lasting purpose to his otherwise tragic and dysfunctional life."

In California, prison guards sent nude photos and love letters to inmates and an office technician had what authorities believed was a prisoner's child, the prison system's inspector general said in a 2012 report.

In Mitchell's case, she was investigated months before last weekend's breakout over a possible relationship with one of the escapees. The two were apparently separated for a while, but the investigation didn't turn up anything that warranted firing or disciplining her, District Attorney Andrew Wylie said.

Court documents say she smuggled hacksaw blades, chisels, a punch and a screwdriver bit to help the men escape.

Investigators also believe the 51-year-old Mitchell pledged to pick up the prisoners after their breakout but didn't show up, according to a person close to the investigation, who wasn't authorized to discuss it and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mitchell's family has said she wouldn't have helped the inmates escape.

Experts say non-guard prison employees—such as vocational instructors, educators and health care providers—face particular challenges in keeping a "security mindset."

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning May 04, 2015 through July 17, 2015; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2015.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Esther L. Muña
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-019

NAVY HILL PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT & WATERLINE PROJECT – PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project– Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of installation of 4"Ø Distribution line; relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals; installation of new service lateral mains; cut & cap of existing waterlines; booster pump by-pass system; replacement of non-working water meters; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 10, 2015 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-019, Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project – Part B to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 4, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurance questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the CUC Board of Directors and Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approval. If CUC Board and CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 17, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Project Manager via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez - nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Project Engineer.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Health & Fitness

Obama and Roberts legacies intertwined in health care law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chief justice who once mangled President Barack Obama's oath of office has once again helped rescue the president's signature achievement, his health care law.

After an awkward first encounter, these two Harvard Law graduates who rose to high positions of power from opposite ends of the political spectrum are bound together in the legacy of a law that the president says has now been "woven into the fabric of America" and that Roberts may not even personally support.

It was Roberts who wrote the majority opinion in Thursday's 6-3 ruling that preserved a critical element of the health care law. And it was Roberts who provided the critical vote to uphold the legal underpinnings of the Affordable Care Act in a 5-4 ruling in 2012.

"This will be a part of them both," predicted Harvard's Laurence Tribe, the constitutional scholar who once had Roberts as a student and later hired Obama as a research assistant.

Tribe, a supporter of the health care law, called it a kind of "kismet" that didn't have to happen that way.

This second ruling by Roberts may well have been easier for him than the first: This time, he was the sixth vote, with Justice Anthony Kennedy along for the ride and providing a cushion. And it only made sense that Roberts would back the law rather than gut it, when he'd already been savaged by conservatives for his ruling three years ago.

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2013, file photo, President Barack Obama is officially sworn-in by Chief Justice John Roberts in the Blue Room of the White House during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington.

Critics of the health care law were nonetheless quick to castigate the latest decision, although many of those in Congress went the route of championing Justice Antonin Scalia's dissent rather than focusing on the chief justice personally.

House Speaker John Boehner, an ardent critic of the health care law, batted away a question about whether he was disappointed in Roberts, saying, "I'll let the legal beagles around the country debate the chief justice of the Supreme Court."

Likewise, the White House shied away from addressing the Obama-Roberts connection, with press secretary Josh Earnest referring to the "business relationship" that the two men have in their respective roles.

Valerie Jarrett, Obama's senior adviser, put the ruling in a historical perspective. "There's a long history on the Supreme Court of justices exercising their independence," she said. "That's part of why they have lifetime appointments. You want to free them up from feeling politically beholden."

But not everyone was ready to accept the ruling as evidence of Roberts' judicial independence.

Carrie Severino, chief counsel to the conservative Judicial Crisis Network and a former law clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas, said the "the two biggest losers today are the English language and the legacy of Chief Justice Roberts."

"If the chief justice is willing to join the court's liberals in this linguistic farce, it's time we admitted that our national `umpire' is now playing for one of the teams," she said, referring to Roberts' description of a judge as one who impartially calls balls and strikes.

Larry Klayman, head of the conservative group Freedom Watch, said the six justices in the majority had "violated their own long-established rules of interpretation for applying statutes to instead advance their own political objectives or burnish their public persona. ... The justices abandoned the rule of law and have become merely a political focus group."

Washington woman's measles death is first in US since 2003

SEATTLE (AP)—A woman killed by measles in Washington state had been vaccinated against the disease as a child but succumbed because she had a compromised immune system, a local health official told a TV station.

The woman's death was the first from measles in the U.S. in 12 years and the first in the state in 25 years.

The case wasn't related to a recent outbreak that started at Disneyland and triggered a national debate about vaccinations, according to the Washington State Department of Health. Officials said it was a different strain.

The Washington woman lacked some of the measles' common symptoms, such as a rash, so the infection wasn't discovered until an autopsy, department spokesman Donn Moyer said Thursday.

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green, the Clallam County health officer, told KOMO-TV in Seattle that the woman had been vaccinated as a child, but because she had other health problems and was taking medications that interfered with her response to an infection, she was not protected.

State officials didn't say whether the woman was vaccinated, but they did note she had a compromised immune system. They withheld her age to protect her identity, but said she was not elderly.

Measles is highly contagious and spreads when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes. However, dying from the illness is extremely rare, Moyer said.

The Disneyland outbreak started in December and eventually sickened more than 140 people across the country and in Mexico and Canada. No deaths resulted from that outbreak.

The prompt responses by heath care workers across the country have helped stop the measles' spread, but it continues to be imported into the U.S., said Anne Schuchat, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There have been 178 cases in the country so far this year.

Schuchat said the best protection is immunization.

"We really rely on people who can be vaccinated to protect those for whom vaccine protection isn't available," such as the woman with a depressed immune system, she said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Others in this condition include people with leukemia or those getting some cancer treatments, Schuchat said.

The woman was hospitalized for several health conditions in the spring at a facility in Clallam County, which covers the northern part of the Olympic Peninsula. She was there at the same time as a person who later developed a rash and was contagious for measles, Moyer said. That's when the woman most likely was exposed.

After being treated in Clallam County, the woman was moved to the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, where she died. An autopsy concluded the cause of death was pneumonia due to measles.

"This tragic situation illustrates the importance of immunizing as many people as possible to provide a high level of community protection against measles," Moyer said.

This week, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a hotly contested bill to impose one of the strictest school vaccination laws in the country. Those in the U.S. who remain opposed to vaccinations include some religious communities, families practicing alternative medicine and libertarians who shun government interference.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2015-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 Time: 10:00 a.m.

" FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE AUDIT – FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposal in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION FOR TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS

The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and required services may include the following: **urine collection testing and reporting**; **intake and assessment**; **counseling**; **psychological evaluations**; **medication**; and **therapy**.

Interested vendors must respond on time and clearly show the following: (1) they can provide services; (2) such services will be provided by certified, licensed professionals with experience in such treatment; and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the vendor's most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.

Interested vendors must contact Barbara P. Hattori, Systems Technology Administrator, Contracting Officer, no later than Friday, July 17, 2015 at the following address:

U.S. Probation Office
Districts of Guam and the NMI
2nd Floor U.S. Courthouse
520 West Soledad Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Email: barbara_hattori@gup.uscourts.gov
Telephone: (671) 473-9201
Facsimile: (671) 473-9202
Website: www.gup.uscourts.gov

CLASSIFIED ADS

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(2) Radiology Technologists (X-ray), $10.00/hr. Call Precision Medical Imaging, LLC. Tel #233-6000/1

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(2) House Workers, $6.05/hr. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan MP, 96950

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Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Position: **FARMER (3)**. Salary: $350 to $450 per month with housing, utilities, food allowance, ground transportation, and workers' compensation insurance provided. Two (2) years experience in fruit, vegetable, and livestock farming required. Must be able to operate farm equipment & machinery.
All applicants must be in good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their Bio-Data, Resume, Police Clearance, and other supporting documents to the Saipan Farm & Garden via email at cornerstone_development@yahoo.com or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing Date: July 14, 2015.

Position: **HOUSEWORKER (1)**. Five years experience in working as a Houseworker with duties to include: Vacuuming, mopping floor, cleaning windows, and other areas of the business office; Cooking, making coffee, and cleaning utensils for office use; Dispose of trash and other office refuse on a daily basis; Cleaning and maintaining in sanitary condition the offices of Cornerstone Consulting Service; and, Performing other houseworker-related duties as assigned.
Salary: CNMI minimum wage. All applicants must be in good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their Bio-Data, Resume, Police Clearance, and other supporting documents to Cornerstone Consulting Services via email at cornerstone_development@yahoo.com or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing Date: July 14, 2015.

IRONWOOD
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Manager/Administrative Support:
Ironwood is now hiring for their Saipan location.

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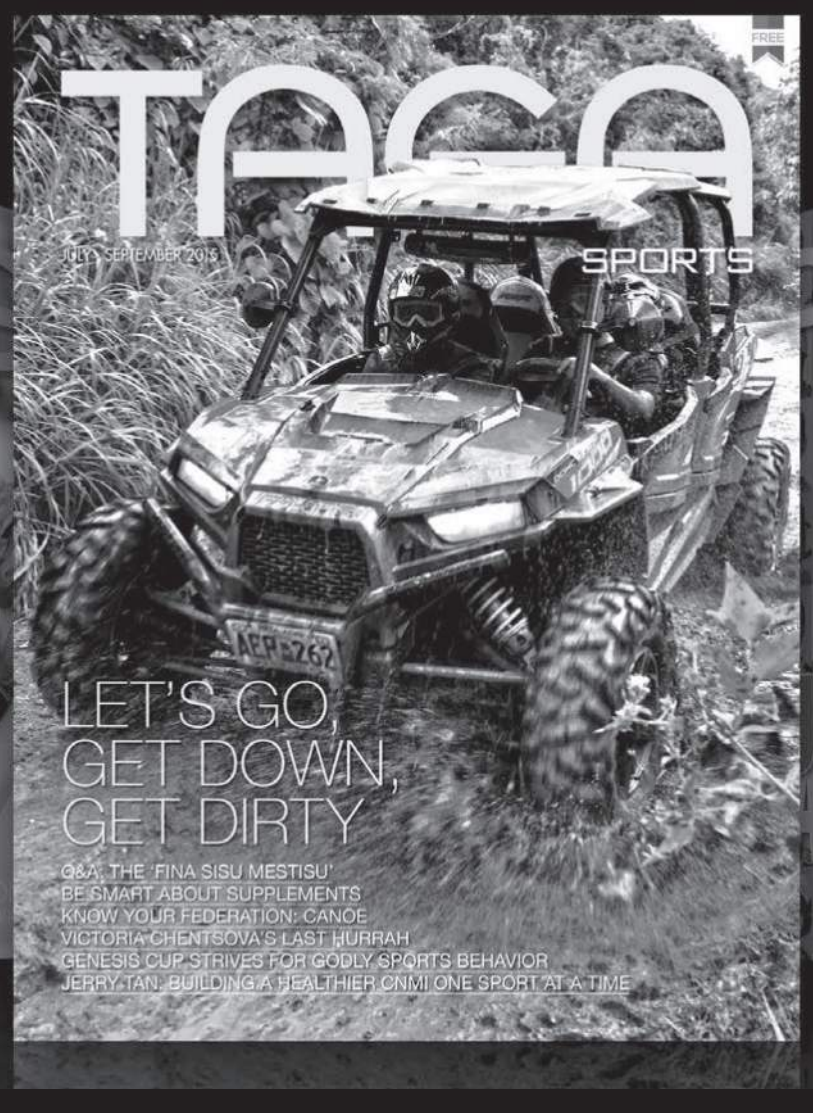
TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Boat inspection set from July 20 to 24

Organizers of the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament are reminding all participants to have their boats inspected before the two-day fishing derby, set on July 25 and 26 at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The period of inspection by the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit will be from July 20 to 24. The inspection is part of the requirement to join the competition.

All participating boats must also be at the Smiling Cove Marina at the 6pm deadline on Saturday and Sunday for their catch to be weighed. The competition starts at 6am on both days.

The awards banquet will be held on Monday, July 27, at 6pm at the Pacific Islands Club.

Tournament organizers are expecting the same number of participants in this year's fishing derby.

Last year's 30th edition attracted more than 60 boats composed of 200 fishermen and crew from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and host Saipan.

Guam's Team GORU, with boat captain Frank Roberto and his 12-year-old son Aaron, won the overall title after catching a 276-pound marlin.

The father-and-son tandem would most likely return this year to defend their title.

The top three heaviest in weight in Bill Fish, Yellow Fin, Wahoo, Mahi Mahi, and Skipjack game fishes will receive prizes.

Entry forms, rules, and schedule of events are available for pick up at the Marianas Visitors Authority office and at the Fishing Tackle in Susupe.

Registration cost is $150 per boat, which is inclusive of a captain and one crew member. A $25 fee is charged for each additional angler.

For more information, call Ed Diaz at 6643200 or visit www.sfacnmi.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A kid touches one of the entries of last year's annual fishing derby at the Smiling Cove Marina.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

canto.

Dixon Kwon's loss added to the Rebels' woes as the wiry guard got accidentally hit by Ignacio Borja's elbow in a rebound play. Coach Joe Diaz quickly replaced Kwon, who was seen holding his bleeding nose while sitting on the bench.

The Ol'Aces just cruised from there against an undermanned Rebels side.

Borja led the Ol'Aces with 20 points followed by the 15, 14, and 13 markers of Jack Lizama, C.J. Rogolifoi, and Preston Basa, respectively. Dan Barcinas scored 10 more.

Alex Lauron led all scorers with 22 while Prince Factor tallied 13 with Diaz and Y.J. Nakayama adding six markers each. Ervin Malonzo fired blanks all game long after draining a 3-pointer early in the second quarter.

In the juniors division, the Dolphins were merciless against the Tataga.

The Dolphins jumped the gun on the Tataga and quickly built a double-digit spread after one quarter, 18-7.

They were never threatened from there as the Dolphins scored in bunches and capitalized on every Tataga miss and error to complete the one-sided match.

Christian Arceo led the Dolphins with 18 markers while Jun Alipio and Jude Tengco contributed 12 and 11 apiece.

Roger Valencia was the lone double-digit scorer for the Tataga with 13 while Joseph Kisa, Elijah Quiroz, and Matthew Richardson tallied 4 points each.

Scores:

Junior

Marianas Dolphins 65—Arceo 18, Alipio 12, Tengco 11, Cobacha 6, Dancoe 6, Mamaril 6, Dela Cruz 3, Ogumoro 3.

Marianas Tataga 25—Valencia 13, Kisa 4, Quiroz 4, Richardson 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-7, 39-12, 53-15, 65-25.

Open

Ol'Aces 86—Borja 20, Lizama 15, Rogolifoi 14, Basa 13, Barcinas 10, Iguel 9, Deleon Guerrero 5.

Rebels 50—Lauron 22, Factor 13. Diaz 6, Nakayama 6, Malonzo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 40-31, 58-39, 86-50.

JON PEREZ

The Rebels' Prince Factor, center, tries to score underneath against the defense of the Ol'Aces Ignacio Borja, left, and Jeff Deleon Guerrero.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

ers each.

Wallace Worswick paced Palau's losing cause with a game-high 19 points followed by Baysa's 17 markers.

The Marianas Alu'u, Marianas Tataga, and Guam are the other competing teams. Guam was playing the Alu'u at press time.

Two games will be played everyday in the youth tournament, which will run from July 12 to 18. The top four teams after the round-robin play will advance to the playoffs where the top ranked squad taking on No. 4 for the first finals berth while the second seed battle No. 3 for the other championship slot.

Games will be played at 4pm and 6pm while the battle for third is set at 9am on July 18, Saturday, to be followed by the championship at 11am.

Scores:

Marianas Dolphins 61—Arceo 17, Alipio 11, Dancoe 10, Ogumoro 10, Tengco 5, Cobacha 4, Factor 4.

Palau 56—Warswick 19, Baysa 17, Ganac 9, Reklai 5, Timarong 3, Tarkong 2, De Lina 1.

JON PEREZ

Christian Arceo, 10, of the Marianas Dolphins grabs the rebound against Palau's J.T. Timarong and Wallace Worswick.

FLORES

From Page 28

that. We have a good chance and we'll do our best to win every game. We'll just take it one game at a time," Flores added.

The entire team—along with head coach Tomas A. Camacho and assistant Mike A. Cruz—left Saipan at 6am on Saturday. The team, also accompanied by parents Ned Norita and Ben Camacho, stopped over at Japan's Narita Airport before heading to Shanghai where they took another flight to the northeastern City of Guilin.

The team is a pitcher-heavy squad that is composed of the 14 best players from the 12 teams that competed in the Saipan Little League's last season.

This will also mark the first time that the CNMI will be fielding a female player in 12-year-old Kiana Aldan, who will be making her debut as a member of the Commonwealth's All-Star team.

"I used to play softball but I quit because I like baseball more. I'm happy and at the same time excited of being a member of the All-Stars. I hope to do my best in helping the team to win," said the incoming sixth grader Aldan, who is a shortstop and a member of reigning Saipan Little League champions Red Sox.

Tanapag Village is well represented as five players made it to Team CNMI, represented by Saipan. They are made up of SLL regular season most valuable player Vicente A. Camacho II, Aven Evangelista, Kyle Kapileo, Antonio Deleon Guerrero Norita, and closer Zach Reyes

Jordan Babauta, SLL finals MVP Zachary Camacho, Justin Celis, Orren Cruz, Donaven Deleon Guerrero, Devon B. Pangelinan, Sean Rabauliman, Joven Reyes, and Zach Reyes are the other members of the team.

It was in 2006 when the CNMI last clinched a World Series berth when Asia and the Pacific were still separate regions. The CNMI were the Pacific representatives, while Japan carried Asia. The CNMI were also the Pacific representatives in 2004 where they ended Guam's three-year reign from 2001 to 2003.

Chinese-Taipei topped the tournament in 2007 when Asia and Pacific were combined into one region. Guam went to World Series in South Williamsport in 2008 while Chinese-Taipei reigned from 2009 to 2013 with South Korea breaking their streak last year.

Saipan earned the right to represent the Commonwealth after sweeping Rota in a race-to-three series in last month's CNMI District Tournament hosted by the Southern island.

The team would like to thank Skywalker Communications Group, Western Pacific Telecom, P&A Corp., Pacific Amusement, Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Mobil, J.E.T. Holdings, Island Apparel, and Rep. Ed Propst (Ind.-Saipan).

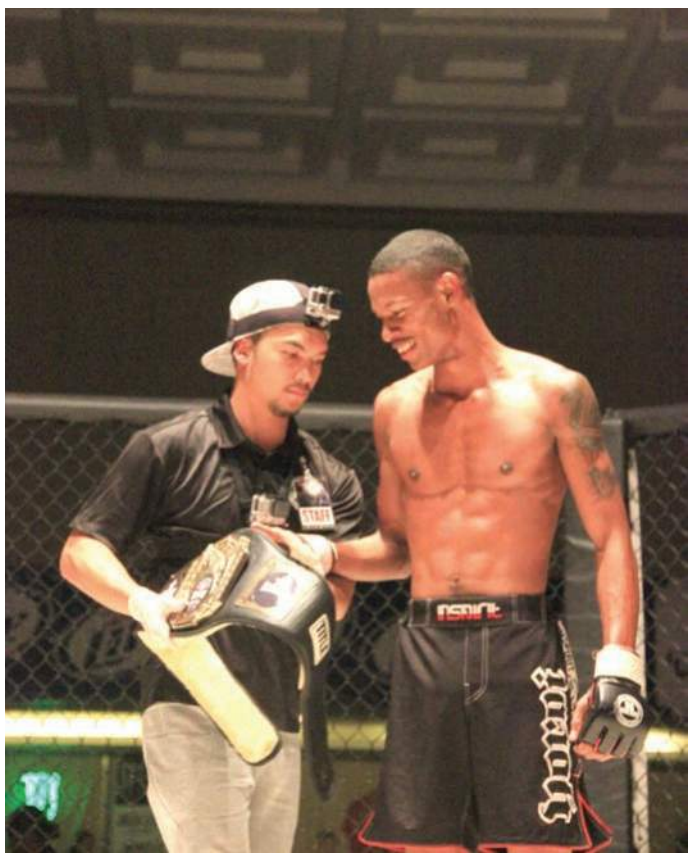
Rites of Passage 18: Warpath

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

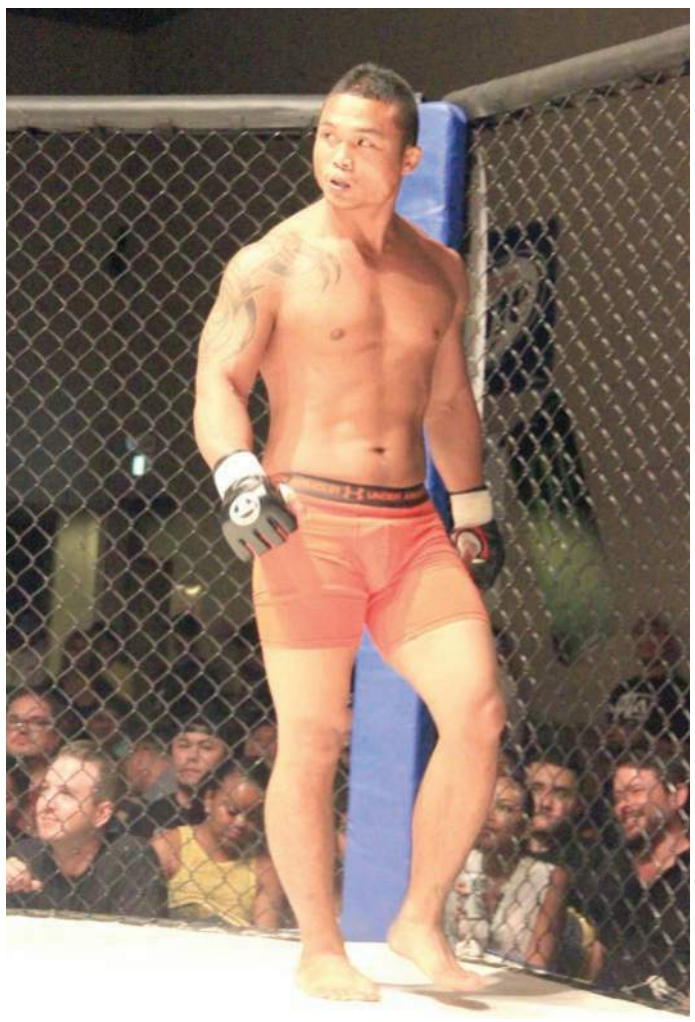
ZengZung Tinian's Renz "The Intense" Benghit, right, and HighBloodPressure Guam's Frank "Hellboy" Quidachay stare down before their match in the July 3 Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Jeffrey Aldan, red shirt, accompanies his son A.J. "Smalls" Aldan of TrenchTech out of the octagon after his win over Jadrien "Last King" Camacho of Down2Scrap.

Team Zalaka's Timothy Salas head-locks Down2Scrap's Jonathan "The Outlaw" Camacho. Salas defeated Camacho via first-round guillotine choke.



Referee Alverick Alvarez, left, hands over the flyweight title to Jordan "The Machine" Manglona.



TrenchTech's Ning "The Slicer" Cepeda eyes Guam Muay Thai's Eric "Gatty" Gatmen at his corner before the start of their lightweight title fight. The fight, however, was declared no contest after Gatmen accidentally kneed Cepeda's groin.

TrenchTech's Cole Morrill choke-holds Jones Langu of RedAntsAcademy. Morrill needed two rounds before forcing Langu to tapout via armbar.

Guam Muay Thai's Eric "Gatty" Gatmen gets checked by one of the fight staff before entering the cage.

Zendokai Nagano Japan's Miura Yasuaki bows down as a sign of respect and greeting the crowd.

Ring announcer L.J. Castro holds the flyweight belt prior to the start of the title bout between TrenchTech's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona and Ernie Santos of HighBloodPressure Guam. Manglona won in 3:59 of the first round.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, top, delivers a flurry of punches to Miura Yasuaki as referee Alverick Alvarez prepares to step in to stop the fight.

Boat inspection set from July 20 to 24

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Flores aims to capitalize on opportunity

JON PEREZ

Team CNMI poseS for a group photo after attending last Friday's mass at the Santa Remedios church in Tanapag. They left early Saturday morning to compete in the 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Little League Regional Baseball Tournament in Guilin, China.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI Majors All-Stars manager Joe Flores hopes to take advantage of the opportunity given to them in the 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Little League Regional Baseball Tournament, which opens today at the Guilin Institute of Tourism in Guilin, China.

The CNMI Little Leaguers open their Pool A campaign against the tournament hosts at 8:30am today. Their complete Pool A schedule will be against Saudi Arabia, and dangerous teams Hong Kong, and the Philippines, in that order.

They avoided the group of defending champion South Korea and powerhouse Chinese-Taipei, which will be joined by Indonesia, Guam, and Thailand in Pool B.

Flores said that their ultimate goal is to teach the World Series but he and the coaching staff knows that it won't be that easy.

"We're going to face a lot of tough competition since this is the regular season or the district tournament. This is a higher level of competition and we need to bring out our A game," said Flores in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after last Friday's mass at the Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.

"But we managed to get into a pretty good pool and we'll take advantage of

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Dolphins survive Palau comeback try

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Dolphins survived Palau's comeback bid to escape with a 61-56 decision in the opening game of the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dolphins seemed headed for an easy win in the regional competition for players in the western division in the Under-15 age group when they enjoyed a 15-point spread, 53-38, with 7:51 left in the fourth quarter.

But the Palau bets, behind M.J. Baysa's 7-point swing trimmed that lead to 56-60 with 35.6 seconds remaining in the final canto.

Time, however, was not on their side and several missed shots down the stretch doomed Palau and the game could have turned into their favor if they managed to convert those closed-range layups.

Christian Arceo's split free throw pegged the final count.

An 11-2 exchange at the start of the fourth period helped the Dolphins turn a 42-36 edge to that 15-point advantage highlighted by Jun Alipio's 3-pointer.

Christian Arceo led the Dolphins' scoring with 17 points while Alipio added 11 more. Dalton Dancoe and Aaron Ogumoro chipped in 10 mark-

See DOLPHINS on Page 14

JON PEREZ

The Marianas Dolphins' Jude Tengco (13) challenges the defense of Palau's Ubai Kingzio, left, and Reece Reklai in the opening game of the 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces, Dolphins rule LibDay caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and the Marianas Dolphins downed their respective foes to rule their divisions in the finals of the 2015 Liberation Day Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Elias Rangamar-coached Ol'Aces dealt the Rebels an 86-50 beating to clinch the Open division crown while the Dolphins topped the juniors side after a 65-25 drubbing of the Marianas Tataga.

The Ol'Aces, after posting a 17-11 lead after 10 minutes of play, used 9-5 scoring spurt to erect the first of several double-digit leads, 26-16, midway in the second period. They settled for a 40-31 halftime bubble.

Jerry Diaz's back-to-back running jumpers had the Rebels threatening at 44-39 with 5:41 left in the third.

But they went scoreless after that while the Ol'Aces closed out with 14 straight points for a 58-39 advantage heading into the fourth

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JON PEREZ

The Ol'Aces' Ignacio Borja, left, and the Rebels' Prince Factor battle for the loose ball in their finals match in the Open division of the 2015 Liberation Day Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.